

CONFIDENTIAL



5 September 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Daniel Graham

SUBJECT : Army Area Handbook Series

1. I have reviewed Lt. Colonel Long's memorandum of 21 July suggesting that it would be appropriate for USIB to review taking over the external contracts under which the Agency Area Handbook Series are produced. This recommendation would view the Handbook Series as an alternative to the NIS Program.

2. I do not feel that I could endorse such a proposal having already rejected options for a reduced NIS Program that would have been only slightly more expensive than the Handbook contracts and have provided a significantly better product. As you know, the Handbook Series has always been presented as being nonintelligence in character and not an official view of the U. S. Government. The Handbook Series are useful background studies but they do not provide adequate analysis and assessment of the political, economic, and military factors in the countries being studied.

3. In my view, the Area Handbook Series falls far short of meeting national intelligence needs. To the extent that it satisfies departmental needs then the funding of the program is a matter of departmental rather than USIB concern.



PAUL V. WALSH
Associate Deputy Director
for Intelligence

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